

2001 FFA Hall of Fame Inductee

Marvin Thompson

Marvin D. Thompson was born in 1920, one of six children of a farm family in Taylor County, Iowa. He was a vocational agriculture high school student in Bedford, Iowa and served his FFA chapter as reporter, secretary and president, participating in public speaking and agricultural mechanics contests at the district and state levels.

Marvin served in World War II as a German and Japanese radio intercept operator and attended special schooling in mechanical engineering. Following WWII, he completed his B.S. degree in 1947, M.S. degree in 1950. and Ph.D. in 1955, all at the Iowa State University.

From 1948 to 1950 he taught vocational agriculture at Dunlap, Iowa. In 1953, he joined the University of Wisconsin--River Falls as a staff member in Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Education and served there until his retirement in 1982. As Professor and Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Education he directed the Bachelors and Masters programs in that field.

Marvin helped develop and administer the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Contest, served from 1973-1975 as executive committee member of the National FFA Board of Trustees and as consultant to the National FFA Board of Directors. He received state and national service awards and the Honorary Wisconsin and American Farmer awards. He participated in the Agency for International Development agricultural programs in Nigeria, Africa and in the Pacific region.

Marvin and his wife, Phyllis, who died April 3, 2001, have one son, Marlin, a daughter-in-law, Lauralyn, and four grandchildren.